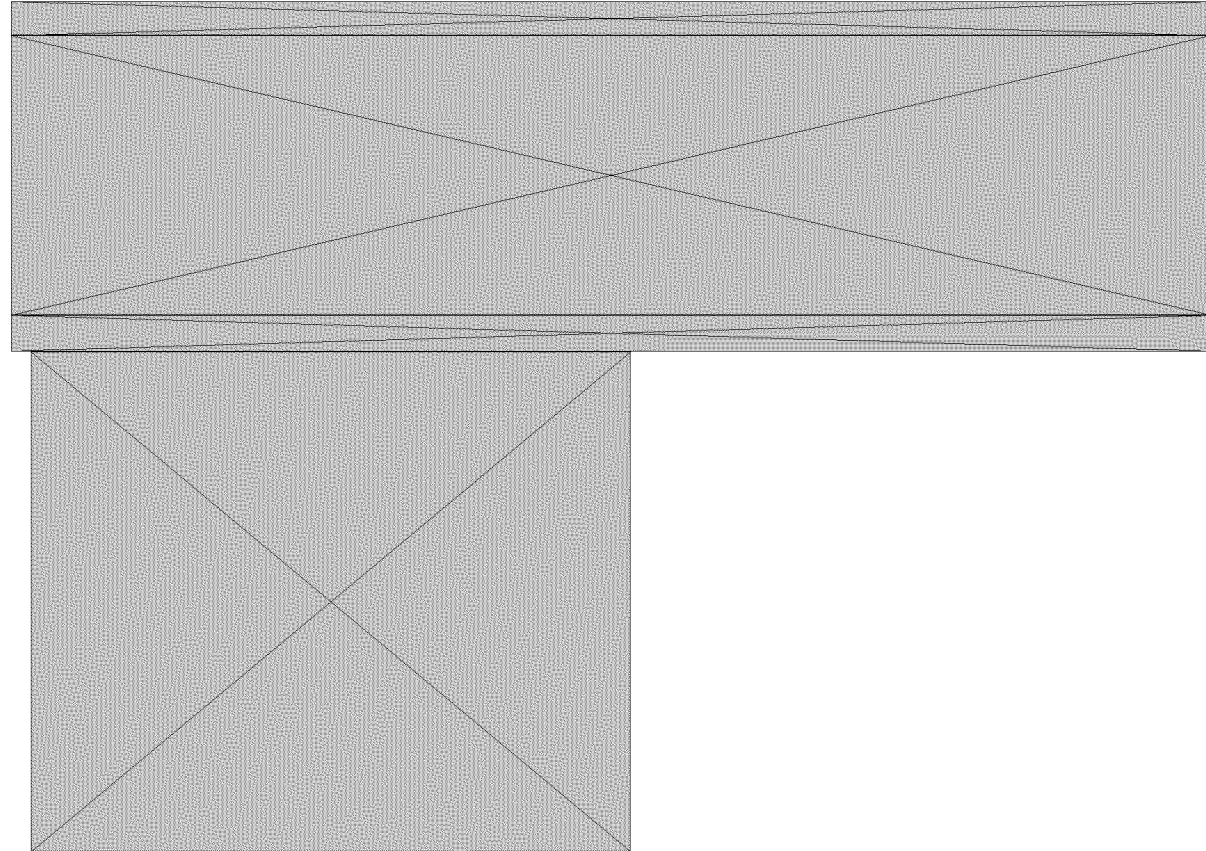


To: Smith, Roxanne[Smith.Roxanne@epa.gov]
From: EnergyGuardian
Sent: Mon 8/10/2015 11:16:23 AM
Subject: Pallone: Climate not 'part of the discussion' on energy bill

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Energy and environment headlines for the morning of Monday, August 10, 2015



Pallone: Climate not 'part of the discussion' on energy bill

By Kevin Rogers

The top Democrat on the House Energy and Commerce Committee says he is confident the House will pass an infrastructure and efficiency package after the August recess, but laments that climate change 'won't be part of the discussion.'

Speaking to C-SPAN's Newsmakers on Sunday, Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., said committee members were looking to create more "robust" energy efficiency measures for the final bill.

over the recess to help generate a more climate-friendly bill.

"Well, it's unfortunate that the Republicans won't talk about the issue of climate change," he said. "From my perspective, what I'd like to see in whatever bill we finally put together ...that it will have some positive impact on climate change."

The draft version of the bill, which cleared the Energy and Power subcommittee last month, left members with plenty to be desired in the final version. Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Ed Whitfield, R-Ky., at the time, said the draft was aimed to get "broad bipartisan support."

While Pallone and Democratic allies rallied for more substantive climate action and "missions reduction in the "Architecture of Abundance," Republicans called for language that would open the door for oil and natural gas exports.

Pallone called the first draft a "middleist" approach which could be strengthened as it moves through committee and toward the floor, even if it doesn't specifically address climate change.

"If we can come up with a bill that creates energy efficiency or leads to use of more renewables as opposed to fossil fuel and it has a positive impact on climate change, I'll be perfectly happy without actually having to articulate that it accomplishes that," he said. "And if someone on the Republican side wants to say it is going to accomplish that, that's fine. I think it's more a question of what we do than what we say."

He also voiced confidence that the bill, once it gets to the floor, would be able to dodge amendments that would either threaten passage or win a White House veto threat.

"I'm confident based on the experience of the last six months," he said, referencing chemical reform and health care bills the committee has seen approved by the House. "If the committee can vote out a bill that's bipartisan that the same thing will happen on the floor and it will attract votes from both sides of the aisle."

Some Republicans indicated last month that they wouldn't seek to push issues that are too divisive into the bill. For example, Rep. Joe Barton, R-Texas, who has led the charge to end the Commerce Department ban on crude oil exports, said it would be best to leave the issue out of the bill. He did, however, call for a separate vehicle for a vote to lift the ban.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which recently advanced its own "energy reform bill, took a similar approach; to win bipartisan support. Chairman Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, and Ranking Member Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., sought to keep out amendments that would serve as "poison pills."

Murkowski instead saved more controversial language for another bill, advancing a package through the committee containing a number of Republican priorities, including a repeal of the crude export ban, expanded offshore drilling and reforms to state revenue sharing programs.

Pallone also gave an update on the path forward for reform to the Toxic Substances Control Act, which hasn't been updated since its development in 1976. The House in June unanimously approved a bill to reform the chemical safety bill, and the Senate plans to vote on its version in fall.

Though the Senate bill, which has more than 50 co-sponsors, takes a more comprehensive approach to reform, Pallone foresaw few issues in bridging the gaps between the bills in conference.

"I think that if they do that and ultimately the bill is broader when it gets passed in the Senate, there's no real problem in going to conference or ping-ponging or whatever comes up on a bill we can agree on," he said. "I don't think there's going to be much of a gap to bridge. If they take up issues we did not, and there's bipartisan support in the Senate, I think we can get that same support in the House."

The Senate TSCA bill, however, faces opposition from Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who prefers the House bill's more tailored approach and plans to seek a vote on it. She has voiced concern that the Senate version is too complex and would ultimately exempt existing state chemical programs.

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Upcoming Events

EPA: Colorado mine waste spill larger than first reported

By Ivan Moreno

DENVER (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency says the mine waste spill into Colorado waters is much larger than originally estimated.

But an EPA official said Sunday that she doesn't believe wildlife will suffer significant health impacts from the wastewater from an abandoned mine in southwestern Colorado.

The agency said the amount of heavy-metal laced water that leaked from the Gold King Mine into the Animas River, turning the water a mucky orange and then yellow, is three times larger than its initial estimate.

The EPA now says 3 million gallons of wastewater spilled Wednesday and Thursday, instead of 1 million. The revision came after the EPA used a stream gauge from the U.S. Geological Survey.

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Thousands of mines with toxic water lie under US West

By Nicholas Riccardi

DENVER (AP) — Beneath the western United States lie thousands of old mining tunnels

filled with the same toxic stew that spilled into a Colorado river last week, turning it into a nauseating yellow concoction and stoking alarm about contamination of drinking water.

Though the spill into the Animas River in southern Colorado is unusual for its size, it's only the latest instance of the region grappling with the legacy of a centuries-old mining boom that helped populate the region but also left buried toxins.

Until the late 1970s there were no regulations on mining in most of the region, meaning anyone could dig a hole wherever they liked and search for gold, silver, copper or zinc. Abandoned mines fill up with groundwater and snowmelt that becomes tainted with acids and heavy metals from mining veins which can trickle into the region's waterways. Experts estimate there are 55,000 such abandoned mines from Colorado to Idaho to California, and federal and state authorities have struggled to clean them for decades. The federal government says 40 percent of the headwaters of Western waterways have been contaminated from mine runoff.

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency was trying to staunch leakage from a gold mine — not worked since 1923 — high in the San Juan mountains of southern Colorado. But workers moving debris from the mine tunnel accidentally opened up the passage, leading to a million gallons (3.8 million liters) of sludge spilling into a creek that carried it into the Animas River. From there the discharge headed toward the Colorado River, which provides water to tens of millions of Westerners.

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Survey: US gasoline prices down 11 cents in the past 2 weeks

By The Associated Press

CAMARILLO, Calif. (AP) — The average price of gasoline has dropped 11 cents over the past two weeks to \$2.71 a gallon.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that the current average sits 81 cents below the year-ago price.

The cheapest price recorded in the continental United States was \$2.19 a gallon in Charleston, South Carolina.

The highest was \$3.80 a gallon in Los Angeles. California saw a 21-cent price drop over the past two weeks — following a huge spike caused by a brief supply shortage. Lundberg says supplies are flowing again and pump prices are poised to drop further in the Golden State.

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Pope and Congress: Francis is certain to challenge lawmakers

By Andrew Taylor

WASHINGTON (AP) — A political pope is sure to seize his opportunity when he addresses a political body. So both Democrats and Republicans are looking forward to Pope Francis' remarks to Congress next month — and bracing for them, too.

The pope thrills Democrats with his teachings on climate change, social justice and immigration. At the same time, his message on life and the Catholic Church's traditional opposition to abortion comfort Republicans.

There is genuine giddiness among Catholic Democrats — many of whom have long been uncomfortably at odds with their church over abortion rights — about the pope's strong emphasis on addressing poverty and the environment.

"I've been waiting for this pope all my life," said liberal Massachusetts Democrat Jim McGovern, 57. "I find him inspirational and I know a lot of other people do, not just Catholics."

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Japan to restart 1st reactor under new rules since crisis

By Mari Yamaguchi

TOKYO (AP) — A power plant operator said it will restart a reactor in southern Japan on Tuesday, the first restart under new safety requirements following the Fukushima disaster and a milestone for the nation's return to nuclear power.

Kyushu Electric Power Co. said Monday that it will restart the No. 1 reactor at its Sendai nuclear plant Tuesday morning.

The restart marks Japan's return to nuclear energy, breaking a four-and-half-year nuclear power impasse since the 2011 meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan following the earthquake and tsunami.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority affirmed the safety of the reactor and another one at the Sendai plant in September under stricter safety rules imposed after the accident, the worst since the 1986 Chernobyl explosion. The plans call for the second reactor to be restarted in October.

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A message from the American Petroleum Institute

America is now the world's #1 natural gas producer and will soon be #1 in oil. Now more than ever, abundant energy means abundant prosperity, opportunity and security for all Americans.

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Worker at wrecked Japan nuclear plant dies from head injury

By Mari Yamaguchi

TOKYO (AP) — A worker at Japan's wrecked nuclear power plant died after the hatch at the back of a truck closed on his head Saturday, the latest mishap at a complex still struggling with the cleanup from the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

The operator of the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant said the 52-year-old man was rushed to a nearby hospital but was pronounced dead soon after.

A man who was working with the victim told plant officials that he found him slumped at the back of a 7.9-meter (32-foot) -long tank truck used to transport underground water and dirt dug from a frozen wall construction site to a dump site, according to the operator, Tokyo Electric Power Co.

The co-worker told TEPCO officials that minutes before the incident, the victim indicated to him that he had finished cleaning and inspecting the truck's tank and wanted him to close the hatch, TEPCO spokesman Shinichi Nakakuki said.

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Saipan power restoration 3-4 weeks, some villages have water

By The Associated Press

HAGATNA, Guam (AP) — It will take about three to four weeks to restore power on Saipan following damage from Typhoon Soudelor, according to the island's Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The destructive typhoon struck the island last weekend, destroying homes, toppling trees and

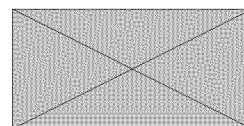
snapping utility poles, reported the Pacific Daily News.

A week later, 536 people remain in nine school shelters across the island and the White House has declared it a disaster area, triggering additional federal aid. Saipan is home to most of the population of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. territory.

"It's like Saipan in the '70s. We are getting our news from the radio like back in the old days," said Garapan resident Joe Taijeron, legal counsel for the Legislative Bureau assigned to the House of Representatives.

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Week in Review - Clean Power Plan rolls out amid charges of collusion

Meanwhile, power plant emissions hit 27-year low.

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Votes expected in Congress on lifting crude export ban

The House is expected to vote on a measure to lift the U.S. ban on crude exports sometime in September, and the Senate could do so early next year, according to The Wall Street Journal.

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Carbon rule opponents likely to appeal for stay

States and the National Mining Association are likely to ask a federal appeals court in Washington to stop the Environmental Protection Agency from putting carbon emission limits into effect while legal challenges to the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan are taking place, The Hill reports.

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More time needed to review mining rule: Senators

Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., and 32 other senators have written to the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, asking that the public comment period on its rule limiting mountaintop removal mining be extended to 120 days, The Hill reports.

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Kasich voices climate skepticism in broadcast interview

Dismissing the fight against climate change, presidential hopeful Gov. John Kasich, R-Ohio, said on NBC's Meet the Press Sunday "we don't want to destroy people's jobs based on some theory that's not proven," National Journal reports.

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Moody's sees long term low oil prices

A recovery of oil prices to \$75 a barrel could take until close to 2020, according to a projection from Moody's Investors Service, which predicted U.S. benchmark crude will remain about \$52 a barrel in 2016 on continuing strong supply, FuelFix reports.

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Oil down on Chinese trade data

Oil prices weighed down by a continuing supply glut got a further blow from gloomy trade data from China early Monday. U.S. benchmark crude lost 18 cents to \$43.69 a barrel in electronic trading on the Nymex, while in London Brent fell 19 cents to \$48.62, Reuters reports.

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Oil producers pumping more despite low prices

Declining crude prices may have been pushing drillers to cut back on spending, but production has actually increased as they've become more efficient, The Wall Street Journal reports.

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Plains pipeline rupture under investigation

Plains All American Pipeline acknowledged last week that it could face charges in connection with the pipeline rupture that spilled oil off the coast of Santa Barbara in May, as the incident is under investigation by state and federal authorities, FuelFix reports.

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Homes near Los Angeles area Superfund sites to be tested

Further air quality tests have been ordered for homes close to the Montrose and Del Amo Superfund sites in southern California after benzene, chloroform and trichloroethylene were detected in the vicinity, the Los Angeles Times reports.

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Ruble weakness boosts Gazprom profit

Russian giant Gazprom's quarterly results showing a 71 percent rise in net profit beat analysts' expectations even though it was affected by the declining value of the ruble, Reuters reports.

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Upcoming Events

- Aug. 10, Billings, Montana: The Western Organization of Resource Councils, Northern Plains Resource Council and Powder River Basin Resource Council to hold a briefing on reforms to the federal coal leasing program ahead of Bureau of Land Management listening sessions in Montana and Wyoming. DIAL IN: 1-877-615-4339. Passcode: 7545791#. 11:15 am , 220 S. 27th Street, Billings, Montana.
- Aug. 10, Washington: The Sierra Club to hold a teleconference on the technical, legal and policy implications of the newly-final Clean Power Plan. Dial In: 877-876-9177. Passcode: CLEAN. 11:00 am

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